REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 11 and 21.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (JP 52-50605). Claims 2-8 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Lopez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,132,647). Claims 9-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Kato et al. (U.S. 5,140,497). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1-21.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"An input-output balanced filter comprising:
first and second input terminals and first and second output terminals;
a first LC filter circuit unit including a common side line, said first LC filter circuit unit being connected between said first input terminal and said first output terminal;
a second LC filter circuit unit including a common side line, said second LC filter circuit unit being connected between said second input terminal and said second output terminal;
a common line defined by an element that is independent of said first LC filter circuit unit and said second LC filter circuit unit;
wherein said common side line of said first LC filter circuit unit is electrically and directly connected to said common side line of said second LC filter circuit unit via said common line;
an approximate midpoint of said common line is defined as a common phase reference point of each of said first and second LC filter circuit units; and
at least one of the first LC filter circuit unit and the second LC filter circuit unit includes two resonant portions connected via a capacitor." (emphasis added)

Claim 21 has been amended to recite:

"An input-output balanced filter comprising:
a first LC bandpass filter circuit unit including a plurality of LC parallel resonant circuits electromagnetically connected to one another;
a second bandpass filter circuit unit including a plurality of LC

parallel resonant circuits electromagnetically connected to one another;

an inductor defined by an element that is independent of said first LC filter circuit unit and said second LC filter circuit unit for electrically and directly connecting a common side line of the first LC bandpass filter circuit unit to a common side line of the second LC bandpass filter circuit unit;

first and second input terminals provided with one of the LC parallel resonant circuits of the first LC bandpass filter circuit unit and one of the LC parallel resonant circuits of the second LC bandpass filter circuit unit, respectively;

first and second output terminals provided with another of the LC parallel resonant circuits of the first LC bandpass filter circuit unit and another of the LC parallel resonant circuits of the second LC bandpass filter circuit unit, respectively; wherein

an approximate midpoint of the common line is defined as a common phase reference point of each of the first and second LC bandpass filter circuit units; and

at least two of the plurality of LC parallel resonant circuits of at least one of said first LC bandpass filter circuit unit and said second LC bandpass filter circuit unit are connected via a capacitor." (emphasis added

Claim 11 recites features that are similar to the features recited in claim 1, including the emphasized features.

As acknowledged by the Examiner in the telephone interview of November 21, 2003, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the claimed combination of "a first LC filter circuit unit including a common side line, said first LC filter circuit unit being connected between said first input terminal and said first output terminal," "a second LC filter circuit unit including a common side line, said second LC filter circuit unit being connected between said second input terminal and said second output terminal" and "a common line defined by an element that is independent of said first LC filter circuit unit and said second LC filter circuit unit" wherein "**at least one of the first LC filter circuit unit and the second LC filter circuit unit includes two resonant portions connected via a capacitor**" (emphasis added) as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 11, or "a first LC bandpass filter circuit unit including a plurality of LC parallel resonant

circuits electromagnetically connected to one another," "a second bandpass filter circuit unit including a plurality of LC parallel resonant circuits electromagnetically connected to one another" and "an inductor defined by an element that is independent of said first LC filter circuit unit and said second LC filter circuit unit for electrically and directly connecting a common side line of the first LC bandpass filter circuit unit to a common side line of the second LC bandpass filter circuit unit" wherein **"at least two of the plurality of LC parallel resonant circuits of at least one of said first LC bandpass filter circuit unit and said second LC bandpass filter circuit unit are connected via a capacitor"** (emphasis added) as recited in Applicants' claim 21.

In contrast, the resonant portions (e.g. C8, L6 and C9, L7) of Kobayashi are directly connected to each other. Kobayashi fails to teach or suggest any circuit element via which the resonant portions are connected, and certainly fails to teach or suggest "at least one of the first LC filter circuit unit and the second LC filter circuit unit includes two resonant portions connected via a capacitor" as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 11 or "at least two of the plurality of LC parallel resonant circuits of at least one of said first LC bandpass filter circuit unit and said second LC bandpass filter circuit unit are connected via a capacitor" as recited in Applicants' claim 21.

The Examiner has relied upon Lopez and Kato et al. to allegedly cure various deficiencies in Kobayashi. However, neither Lopez nor Kato et al. teaches or suggests the features of the claimed combination of "a first LC filter circuit unit including a common side line, said first LC filter circuit unit being connected between said first input terminal and said first output terminal," "a second LC filter circuit unit including a common side line, said second LC filter circuit unit being connected between said second input terminal and said second output terminal" and "a common line defined by an element that is independent of said first LC filter circuit unit and said second LC filter circuit unit" wherein "at least one of the first LC filter circuit unit and the second LC filter circuit unit includes two resonant portions connected via a capacitor" as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 11, or "a first LC bandpass filter circuit unit including a plurality of LC parallel resonant circuits electromagnetically connected to one another," "a

second bandpass filter circuit unit including a plurality of LC parallel resonant circuits electromagnetically connected to one another" and "an inductor defined by an element that is independent of said first LC filter circuit unit and said second LC filter circuit unit for electrically and directly connecting a common side line of the first LC bandpass filter circuit unit to a common side line of the second LC bandpass filter circuit unit" wherein **"at least two of the plurality of LC parallel resonant circuits of at least one of said first LC bandpass filter circuit unit and said second LC bandpass filter circuit unit are connected via a capacitor"** (emphasis added) as recited in Applicants' claim 21.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi, the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Kato et al., and the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Lopez et al.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Kobayashi, Lopez, and Kato et al., applied alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claim 1, 11, and 21 of the present application. Claims 2-10 depend upon claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 12-20 depend upon claim 11 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 11 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a Three-month extension of time, extending to July 14, 2004, the period for response to the Office Action dated January 14, 2004.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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